

TRIBUTE TO BEN KENDIG JR., ON BEING NAMED THE 1997 HOSPITAL AUXILIARY/VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Ben Kendig Jr., a distinguished individual, for being named the 1997 Hospital Auxiliary/Volunteer of the year. I commend his compassion for others in volunteering countless hours for the service of his fellow citizens.

Ben bravely served his country as a fighter pilot in World War II. After the war, he attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology and received his degree in aeronautical engineering. Ben then used his skills working at United Aircraft. After that, he then decided to settle down in Nashua, New Hampshire, and opened up his own engineering firm.

After 15 years of running his own business, he decided to retire. However, at the age of 71, he still had plenty of energy and drive so he decided to put it to good use. According to Ben, he wanted to spend his time helping others, an attribute that I admire greatly.

As a result, he joined the Southern New Hampshire Regional Medical Center Messenger Service. Ben initially wanted an easy position with little responsibility, however, it developed into something much greater.

As time went on, Ben accepted more responsibility and assumed leadership roles within the Messenger Service. His dedication to service and supportive energy exceeded the normal expectations of any volunteer. Naturally, people turned to him in times of need. Unfortunately, the president and the director of auxiliary was diagnosed with cancer. Like many times before, Ben picked up the reins of leadership and was appointed the president of the Messenger Service.

This arduous job involved overseeing over 200 volunteers, a position that certainly would test any man. Close to 30,000 hours of time had to be delegated throughout the hospital. Ben also had a budget of \$100,000 the organization had to distribute to improve certain areas of the hospital like the maternity ward.

Ben gave not just to the hospital, but to each and every individual with whom he worked. He inspired others by his own actions and caring attitude. Ben exceeded the expectations and surpassed the ordinary responsibilities of a volunteer. Mr. President, I want to congratulate Ben for his outstanding work and I am proud to represent him in the U.S. Senate.●

THE 13TH LABOR OF HERCULES

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, nearly a year-and-a-half since I wrote President Clinton urging him to appoint a high level aide to handle the Year 2000 Computer Problem, I am encouraged that the President has made this issue a top priority, and named

John Koskinen to chair a Presidential Year 2000 Council.

The President's council has many similarities to the Commission/Task Force that would have been created by my bill, S. 22, which I introduced on the first day of the 105th Congress (1/21/97). This all has come about in no small part because of the tireless efforts of Representative STEVE HORN and his House Government Reform Subcommittee. I look forward to working closely with Mr. Koskinen.

Having spent two years studying, and warning of, the lagging progress of the agencies on this issue, I should warn Mr. Koskinen that with fewer than two years remaining, he faces what looks to be the 13th labor of Hercules.●

LANE A. RALPH

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, on February 1, 1998, Lane A. Ralph celebrated his 20th anniversary of service in the Indiana State Office of the United States Senate. In recognition of this milestone achievement, and with deepest appreciation, I commend him.

An alumnus of Indiana State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and a Master's of Public Administration, Lane joined my state office staff during my second year of membership in the Senate. In the ensuing years, Lane has worn many hats with unbridled enthusiasm, vast energy and selfless commitment.

In 1980, Lane rose to the challenge of serving two senators, as Senator Dan Quayle and I established the only combined state office in the country. When Senator DAN COATS joined the Senate in 1988, Lane continued his selfless commitment to serve both of us, ceaselessly offering sage counsel, valued continuity and dedication to a shared purpose. Lane has consistently articulated a vision of humane government and has demonstrated a genuine commitment to public service. He has served with humility, compassion and empathy for those in need.

As the Director of Projects for the United States Senate State of Indiana Office, Lane has provided leadership with integrity and intelligence. He has developed an extraordinary encyclopedic-knowledge of people, places, facts and issues which affect the quality of life of all Hoosiers. He has cultivated a comprehensive network of contacts in federal, state and local government and among community leaders who value his responsible and credible expertise, as well as his well-reasoned approach to public policy.

Lane's leadership in environmental issues is well-known throughout Indiana. He has been a steadfast advocate of soil and water conservation, clean air and water, better forest management and responsible hazardous waste disposal. In his collaborations with Operation Lifesaver, Lane has worked tirelessly to educate Hoosiers in railroad-crossing safety. As an expert in public works issues, he has assisted

elected officials, municipal administrators and concerned citizens enhance Indiana's roads, drinking-water systems and planning mechanisms.

In his many years of service, Lane has consistently demonstrated a talent for forthrightness and for clarifying the intricacies of complex situations. He cuts to the heart of concerns and issues with a knack for asking key questions. Lane is fairminded and industrious with people from all walks of life, balancing the interests of conflicting parties and affably fostering collaborative partnerships.

Apart from his distinguished career of public service, Lane has been a loving and generous partner to his wife, Ruth, throughout their 18 years of marriage. He is a caring and supportive father to his two daughters, Elina and Emily. He is also personally, my trusted and loyal friend.

For his honesty, sincerity and integrity, for his dedication to excellence and for his genuine decency, I commend Lane A. Ralph for 20 remarkable years of service.●

TRIBUTE TO 1997 DOVER (N.Y.) HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

• Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, consistent with the greatest traditions of athletic competition, the 1997 Dover High School football team became the first in Dutchess County history to earn the high honor of New York State Champion. Rolling to victory after victory, their perfect season culminated in a spectacular double-overtime triumph over Christian Brothers Academy of Syracuse.

While the victories they gained were as a team of 31 dedicated scholar-athletes, they did not travel that road to victory alone. Behind them all the way were their parents, their classmates and the entire community. Guiding them and offering encouragement in difficult times while challenging them to be the best were their coaches: Bill Broggy, Chris Lounsbury, John Thorpe, Bill Peel, Paul Kenny and Israel Lorimer.

Their skill on the field, their refusal to give up and their commitment to excellence have brought honor and distinction not only to the Dover Dragons, but to all of Section 1. In addition to their undefeated season and many memories, they have developed skills that will be with them long after their playing days are over. The dedication they displayed through countless hours of practice, their sense of teamwork, and the ability to rise to a challenge will serve them well as they continue to grow not only as athletes, but as human beings.

Leading up to the championship game on November 28, 1997, the players, coaches, parents, and so many fans traveled with hope and pride to play and watch the ultimate game. Win or lose, the Dover Dragons had made it all the way to the New York State Championship at the Carrier Dome. Facing a